

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 167, 211

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis would move to return the bill for AM1373. (Legislative Journal pages 1348-1351.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Essentially, I'm asking for LB 167, a bill heard and reported out by the General...the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs on unanimous vote essentially be adopted to LB 211 which is a cemetery bill offered by Senator Janssen. If this proves controversial, I will withdraw it, but I don't think it is. In fact, there is no source of controversy that I know of about the bill, in that the bill itself before the committee had only proponents, and since then we've continued to work with all parties. It does not have a cost. There is no A bill. It does not require the expenditure of money. What the bill does, however, is to designate somebody inside the State Historical Society as our state archeologist. It also requires that public lands, not private lands, but that public lands, who discover an archeological resource apprise the State Historical Society's archeologist, the Office of State Archeology, of that resource so that it can be evaluated and maximized. There are some "Mother, may I's." There are some passes from the office. The Department of Roads gets a pass from the office. It doesn't apply to them. There's also several entities, for example like NPPD, which have federal obligations that are essentially quite similar to what we would otherwise do at the state level. And if they can provide a letter of understanding to the State Archeology Office, they will get a pass, as well. However, this applies to public lands and public agencies, and what it says is that when they're building or whatever and they come across an archeological resource, something at least 50 years of age or older which has historical merit or value, that they will pause for an evaluation or for to continue, if that's the case, and for that resource to be able to be maximized by the state, if at all possible. It does say that to destroy, excavate or plunder a public resource like this is a Class III misdemeanor, which is essentially the same thing as trespass. You would have to be trespassing on public land to do this. You would have to be